



Division of Information Systems and Communications

Mark Parkinson, Governor
Joe Hennes, Director

<http://www.da.ks.gov/disc/>

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Dear Colleagues in Information Processing

I'm writing today to seek your support and participation in the IT consolidation study requested by the 2010 Legislature. I recognize there is some concern about what such a study might invoke but perhaps we need to see this as an opportunity rather than something to be feared. Given the budget crisis our state has faced these past few years, it is probably unrealistic to think our state officials would not be looking at consolidation as a means of saving taxpayer dollars. Consolidation was the number two priority for all states responding to a National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) survey conducted earlier this year. The number one priority was budgets and cost control. History has shown that consolidation done right can produce significant savings over time.

The State of Kansas has shown it is not adverse to consolidation when it makes sense. I believe we have a good track record of implementing consolidated solutions as is evidenced by the KANWIN network and the shared data centers in the Landon State Office Building and at two offsite locations. The state has also implemented an Enterprise Payroll Application and is in the process of implementing an Enterprise Financial Management application. What I believe this study provides is an opportunity for us to carefully consider other opportunities to implement solutions that are in the best interest of our citizens, both from the standpoint of tax dollars and quality of service.

Bill and Bryan are embarking on a tough assignment but one they willingly embrace. They will be quick to tell you, they cannot be successful without your assistance. Without your assistance, they will be left to complete the study based on data from research firms and national statistics. While I believe it is important to consider those things, I think it is far more important to make this our study, one that reflects the real picture here in Kansas. I view this a little bit like voting. If you want your voice heard, you need to participate.

When the Legislature was considering this bill, I testified in support of the bill. I did so because I believe it is better to understand the issues and have the knowledge to make intelligent decisions versus putting policy makers with limited knowledge of the subject in a position to have to make decisions without the best information and recommendations we can provide, gathered with full input from our community. I still believe that is true and given that we will have new political leaders considering the results of this study, let's all do our part to make sure the study reflects the true opportunities here in Kansas. Again, I ask that you give your full support to Bill and Bryan as they embark on this journey. In turn, please let me know how I can be of support to your agency during this time - my door is open anytime to you for questions or to express concerns. Thanks.

Best Regards,

Executive Branch, CITO